

SUBJECT: Revisions to Sunsetting ACOFP Position Statements of the
American College of Osteopathic Family Physicians (ACOFP) – Telemedicine

SUBMITTED BY: ACOFP Constitution & Bylaws/Policy & Organization Review Committee

REFERRED TO: 2018 ACOFP Congress of Delegates

RESOLUTION NO. 10

1 RESOLVED, that Congress of Delegates of the American College of Osteopathic Family Physicians
2 (ACOFP) refer the ACOFP Telemedicine Position Statement to the ACOFP Washington office for
3 review and report to 2019 Congress.

4 Explanatory Statement: The ACOFP Constitution & Bylaws/Policy & Organization Review Committee
5 recognizes that a referral will leave the ACOFP without a specific policy on Telemedicine until
6 the Washington Office returns a new statement to the 2019 Congress of Delegates. However, the
7 Committee believes that the current policy needs significant revisions, editing and updating and
8 the ACOFP can reference the previous policy if needed and explain that the policy is under
9 revision.

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11 **9. INNOVATIVE MEDICINE**

12 1. Telemedicine - Definition of Telemedicine - Telemedicine is an area of medicine that utilizes
13 information and telecommunication technology to transfer medical information that assists in
14 the diagnosis, treatment, and education of the patient.

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16 Primary Care versus Consultation - For the purpose of telemedicine: A primary care
17 doctor/patient relationship can only be established through, at least, one physical face-to-face
18 meeting. Treatment via telemedicine can be utilized only after the establishment of the
19 doctor/patient relationship.

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21 Medical consultation may occur when a licensed physician, who has not met the patient in a
22 face-to-face meeting, is called upon to give treatment advice within the scope of practice to
23 another licensed practitioner who is treating the patient.

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25 State versus federal regulatory oversight - Regulatory oversight for telemedicine should be
26 administered at the state level, utilizing licensure requirements developed by individual states
27 and their medical boards. To regulate the practice of telemedicine across state lines, the ACOFP
28 asks the Federation of State Medical Boards to develop a system wherein a physician may be
29 granted licensure to practice telemedicine in a state where the physician is not currently
30 licensed.

FINAL ACTION: REFERRED TO THE ACOFP FEDERAL LEGISLATION COMMITTEE AND
DEPARTMENT OF GOVERNMENT RELATIONS as of MARCH 22, 2018